

## **Report from District Councillor, Peter Terrington, 8th April 2013**

### **Wells Matters:**

**Proposed Co-op Retail Store, Polka Rd, Wells:** In respect of the Wells Coop S278 Agreement, the Council has not received details from County Highways. (The Council is able to issue planning decisions ahead of S278 Agreements being signed). The agreement will not be available until later this week. The planning officer has requested delegated authority to approve the revised application for the Coop store. Monitoring of the impact of the Co-op retail store on the town centre is a condition of the planning consent.

**Coach/Lorry parking, Polka Rd, Wells:** The application for a filling station was approved by the Development Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March. A recommendation was made to provide alternative lorry/coach parking spaces in the town.

**Market Lane Development, Wells:** The application is for 120 dwellings, 55 affordable, to be allocated through the Councils General List. Application was approved on 21<sup>st</sup> Mar. by the Development Committee. There are concerns re. Access from Market Lane (High School has concerns), Fakenham Rd. and capacity of sewerage system to cope. I was very disappointed that the DC chose to ignore the views of the Town Council, local members, residents and the Headteacher of APHS.

**Car parking provision in Wells:** NNDC car parking charges will be reviewed as part of the annual budget process for 2013/14. I have requested that the portfolio holder concerned, to consider making the first 30 minutes, on the Staithe Street car park, free to shoppers, in the next car parking charges review. The matter of car parking charges comes before the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in May.

**Quayside Development:** No further work has taken place on Gifts Galore site since the Stop Order was issued. There are a number of issues delaying progress on this site. Development has started on the former Gray's Amusement site, piling is complete and groundworks continue. The developer has informed me that construction is to continue through the summer period.

**Wells Harbour's dredging operation:** I understand that the investigation, being carried out by the MMO, into the position and height of the berms is still ongoing and no decision has yet been made on the renewal licence.

### **Enforcement Board Update:**

The Enforcement Board is continuing to monitor the empty properties in Wells and is looking into the situation with the Maryland Industrial Units.

### **Matters in Adjoining Parishes:**

**River Stiffkey Regeneration Project:** A workshop was held at Wighton Village hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. March. There are proposals to "naturalise" the Wighton to Warham section of the River. Further details can be obtained form: [norfolkrivertrust@gmail.com](mailto:norfolkrivertrust@gmail.com).

## **OTHER NEWS:**

### **North Norfolk Renewables Partnership/B1105 Renewable Energy Development**

**Corridor:** Consultation closed on 15<sup>th</sup> March. for the proposed designation of a "Local Development Area" catering for the offshore wind energy industry on 30 ha. of land at Egmere. The recommendations will come before Cabinet in May. Other related proposals include: A solar wind farm at Egmere (Former North Creake Airfield) which was withdrawn and re-submitted on an adjoining field, and approved on 14<sup>th</sup> March. An application has been approved for a proposed biogas anaerobic digestion plant on an adjacent site.

**North Norfolk, European Maritime Site:** The NN, EMS, Advisory Group meets in the Maltings at Wells. The meetings of the AG are attended by representatives from Parish Councils and other interested organisations. There are always issues of local interest on the agenda, The AG is looking for a secretary.

**Integrated Coastal Zone Management:** The next meeting of the Coastal Issues Forum is on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting is open to town and parish councils. Discussion of Coastal Tourism will be an agenda item.

**Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG):** Concerns have been raised by the FLAG committee regarding the impact of two further offshore wind farms on the fishing industry. A number of projects (11), to support the local fishing industry, have received funding of £872,000. The chairman has also written to the Environment Agency expressing concern at the situation of the Blakeney mussel beds and a meeting was arranged between the Blakeney mussel fishermen, NE and Cefas. I understand that Cefas is investigating.

**Health Walks Fit Together:** NNDC, along with other local authorities are promoting Health Walks through Active Norfolk. A series of walks take place each week.

**East of England Marine Plan:** The formal 12 week public consultation on the draft marine plan for the East of England – the first of its kind in the UK – is expected to begin in Spring 2013. MMO will inform of the consultation start date as soon as possible following Secretary of State approval.

**Planning Peer Challenge:** The Challenge Team's draft report is awaited. One point that arose, in discussion, was the surprise at the low take up, by town councils, of the opportunity to produce Neighbourhood Plans.

**Cabinet recommendations 4<sup>th</sup> Mar 2013:** Separate sheet attached.